



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Eastern Idaho

Valid Aug 14, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pocatello Weather Forecast Office

Contact Information: nws.pocatello@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated in late September, 2026 if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- Moderate to exceptional drought exists across most of south central and eastern Idaho
- Continued pattern of low precipitation and warm temperatures; multi month rainfall deficit; natural stream levels are well below normal.
- Water supply forecasts for most rivers are 60-70% of normal.



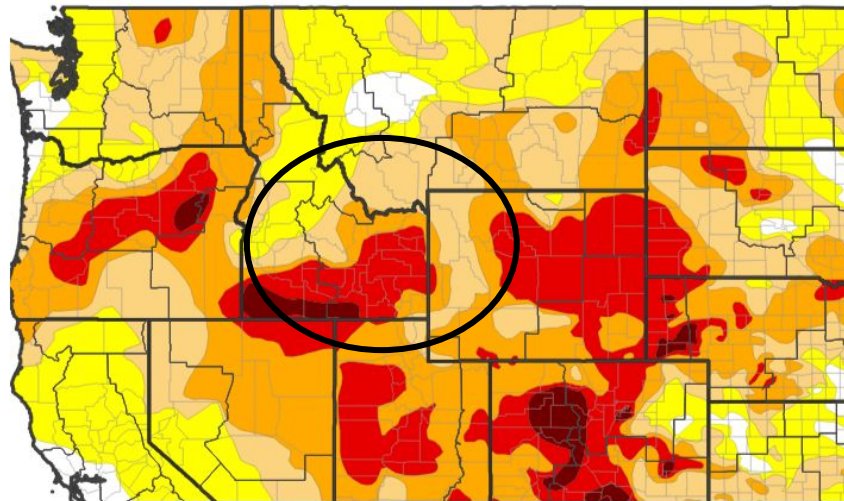


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for South Central and Southeast Idaho

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Much of Cassia County
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Eastern Magic Valley, and Upper Snake River Plain; Eastern Highlands.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Custer, Blaine, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Caribou, Franklin, Bear Lake Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western Custer and northern Blaine Counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: northwest Custer County

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/11/26



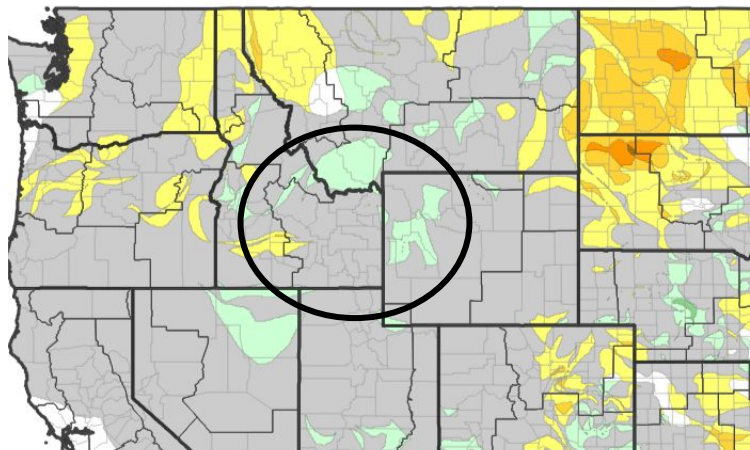


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for South Central and Southeast Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Lincoln County
 - **No Change:** The remainder of the forecast area

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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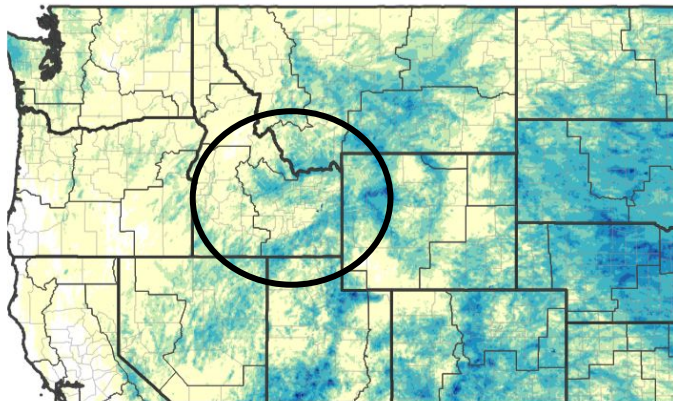
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Precipitation

- As of mid August, 30-day precipitation has been from convective storms that are limited in spatial extent. Bands of above normal precip have occurred from Cassia County northeast through Power, Bannock, Bingham and Caribou Counties; as well as Custer County.
- The remainder of the area has had below normal precipitation.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



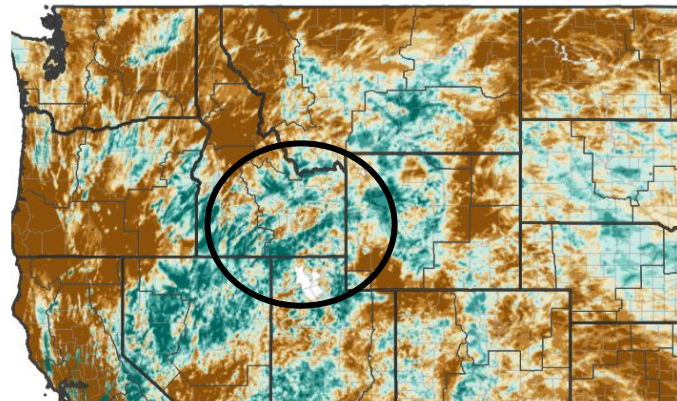
Inches of Precipitation



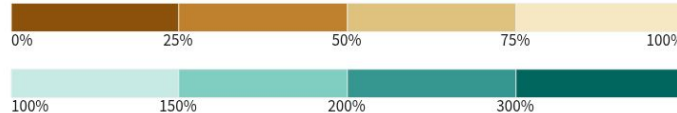
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/14/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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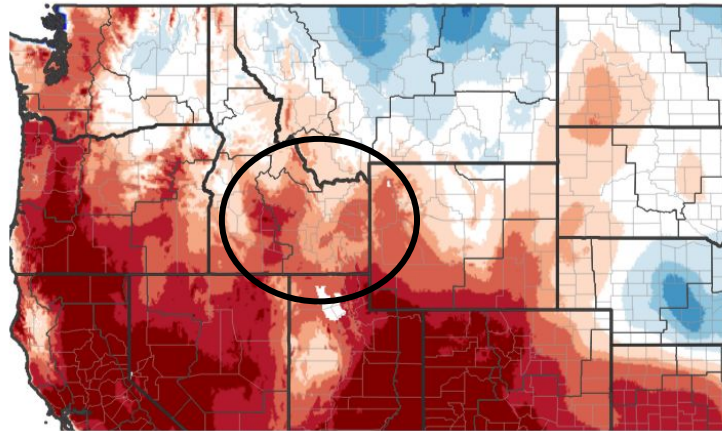




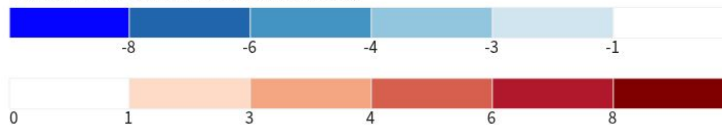
Temperature

- 7-day maximum temperatures above normal for the entire region.
- 30-day maximum temperatures were above normal, particularly the SE corner of the state, and much of Blaine and Custer Counties.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



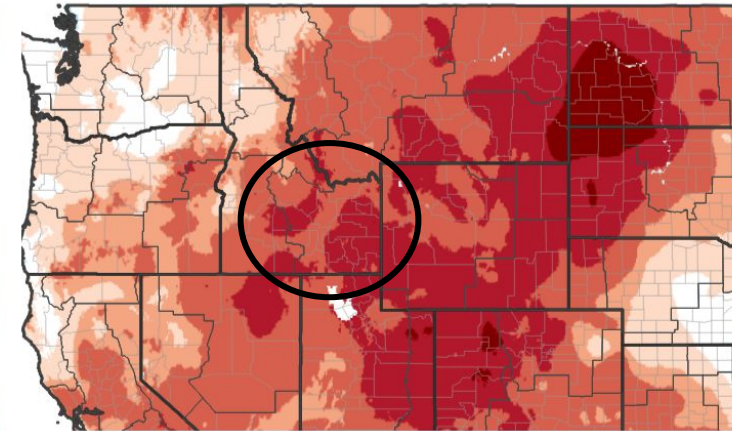
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/10/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/10/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Heavy drafting of reservoir storage; many small reservoirs are depleted (Magic, Oakley); reservoir carryover expected to be very poor.
- [Late summer streamflows](#) are well below normal, particularly in unregulated, natural flowing rivers/streams, particularly in low elevation basins with no upstream reservoir storage (Goose Creek, Raft, Malad and Upper Blackfoot Rivers)

Agricultural Impacts

- [Streamflow volume forecasts](#) remain well below normal for all Snake River segments; ranging from 50-70%.
- [Snake River reservoir system](#) is very low; current system storage at 24% of capacity, 42% of average, and 1.32 million acre feet below average storage for mid August.

Fire Hazard Impacts

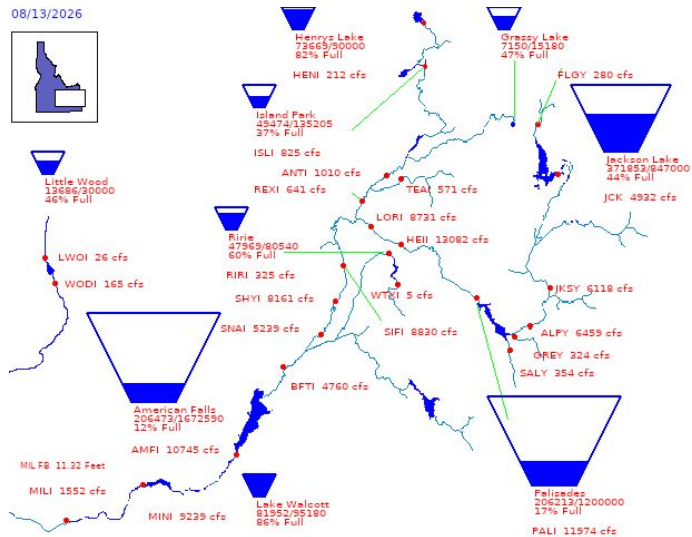
- Above normal [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) for August and September



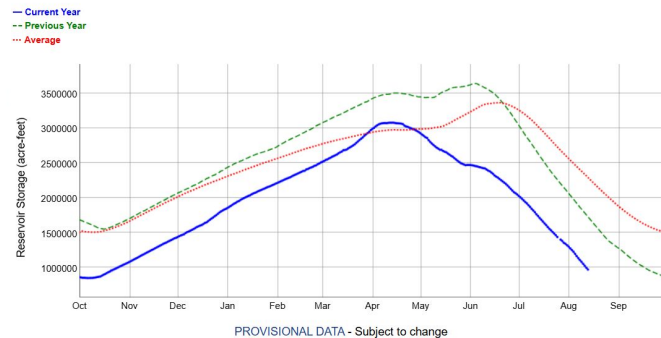


Agricultural Impacts - Water Supply Forecast

- Runoff volume forecasts (through September) remain below normal for every river basin in southern and eastern Idaho.
- Forecasts are particularly low for Willow Creek (11%), Little Wood River (50%), and the Bear River (20%).
- Low winter carryover, heavy early year withdrawals and warm summer temps have drafted Snake River reservoirs to levels well below average.



Water Year Graph

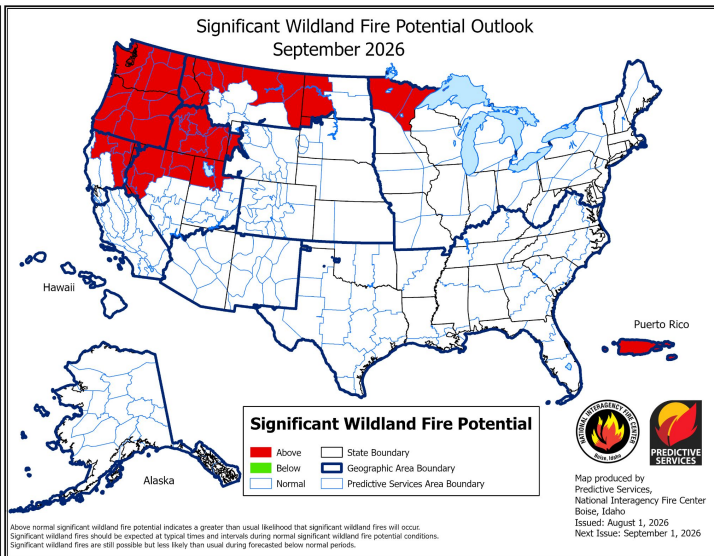
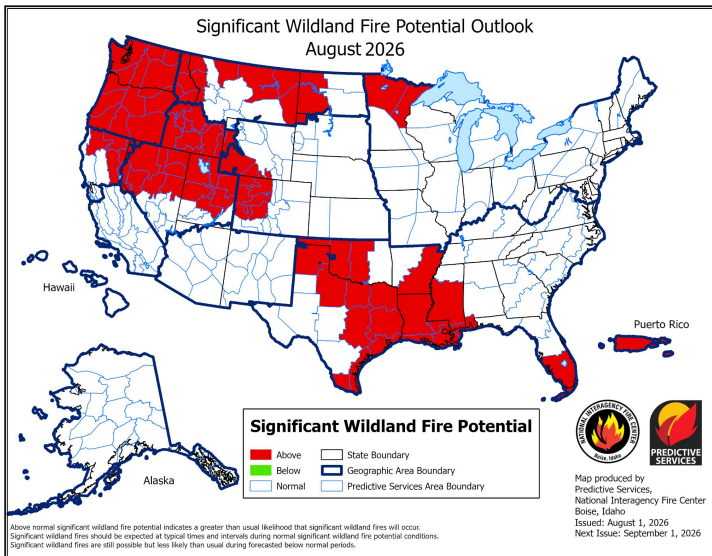




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for August, and September is “above normal” for southern and eastern Idaho.

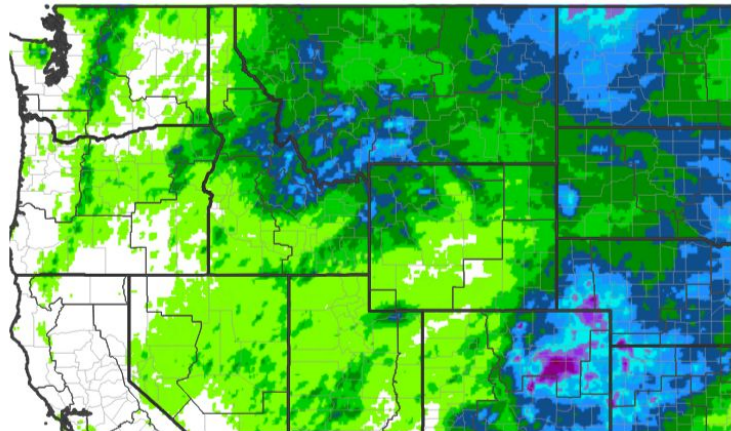




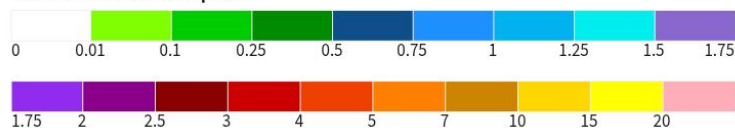
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The 7-day precipitation forecast calls for light precipitation for the southern half of the forecast area (up to 0.1" in valleys, up to ½" in mountains).
- Forecasts for the north and eastern parts of the region are for moderate precipitation, including;
 - Up to ¼" in valley locations
 - Up to ½" in the Island Park area.
 - Up to 1 ½ " in the Teton foothills, Big Hole Mtns, Lost River, Pioneer, and Lemhi Ranges.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August 14, 2026–August 21, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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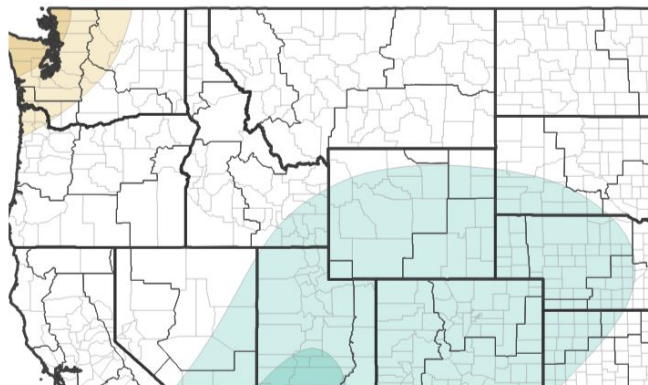


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Seasonal outlook probabilities are for a slight probability of above normal precipitation for the SE part of the forecast area; near normal precip for the remainder.
- The temperature outlook is for above normal for the entire region.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for August 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



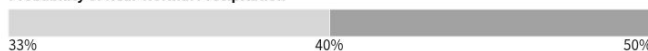
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



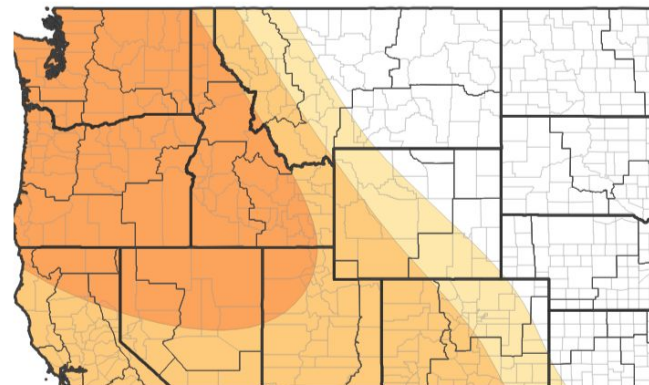
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



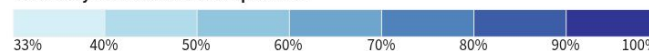
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



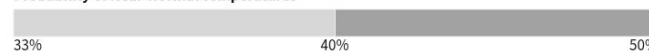
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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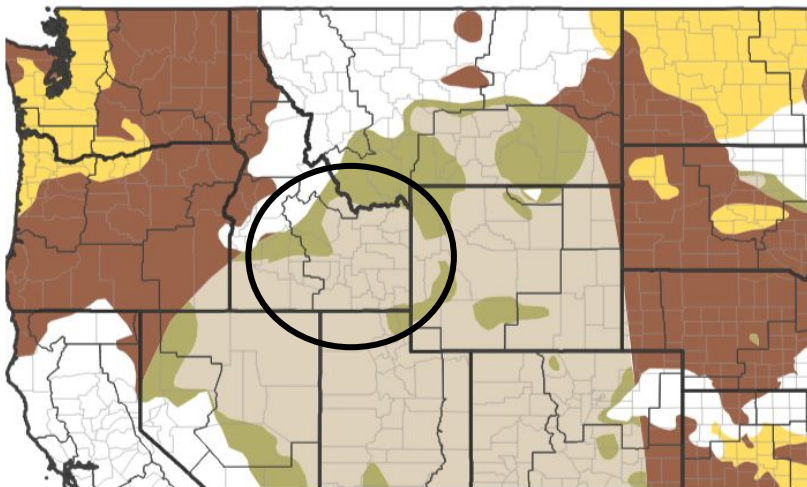


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to improve for most of the region, and end in much of the central Idaho mountains.

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 31,
2026–October 31, 2026**



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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